

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION  
FOR NATIONAL PHASE SUBMISSION

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Claims

1. Method for mounting at least one contact pin (5) on a sleeve (1), in particular a plastic sleeve, into which a piezoelectric element (8) is inserted, whereby at least one pin mount (2) is provided on the outer circumference at the upper and/or lower end of the sleeve (4) for the contact pin (5), and whereby the contact pin (5) is connected electrically by way of one or more contact wires (6) to the piezoelectric element (8), characterized in that the pin mount (2) is provided in the form of a detent connection, whereby the detent connection is implemented such that the contact pin (5) is fixed in its position after insertion into the detent connection (2).
2. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that an upper pin mount (2) is provided on the outer edge of the sleeve (1) and that the upper pin mount (2) has a wedge-shaped insertion aid (2a) by means of which the contact pin (5) can be inserted sideways into the pin mount (2) to lock into position.
3. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the lower pin mount (2) has a support (4a) and that the support (4a) secures the contact pin (5) against pressure from above.
4. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the lower pin mount (2) has a guide

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aid (4) by means of which the contact pin (5) can be inserted sideways into the sleeve (1).

5. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the lower pin mount (2) has an arresting element (3), which preferably takes the form of a burl and thereby prevents the lower end of the contact pin (5) from falling out of the guide aid (4).
6. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the detent connection (2) for the contact pin (5) is designed to be releasable.
7. Method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the detent connection (2) for the contact pin (5) is designed to be non-releasable.
8. Sleeve for accommodating a piezoelectric element (8), whereby the piezoelectric element (8) is mounted inside the sleeve (1), characterized in that two contact pins (5) lying opposite one another are arranged on the outer circumference of the sleeve (1) parallel to the longitudinal axis, which are connected electrically by means of a plurality of contact wires (6) to a piezoelectric element (8) situated in the sleeve (1), as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sleeve (1) has two pin mounts (2) in each case at its upper and its lower end faces (10) for fixing the two

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contact pins (5) and that the pin mounts (2) take the form of detent connections.

9. Sleeve as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the detent connections (2) of the sleeve (1) have a wedge-shaped insertion aid (2a) and/or guide aid (4) by means of which the contact pin (5) can be inserted sideways.
10. Sleeve as claimed in one of claims 8 or 9, characterized in that the sleeve (1) is designed as a single part and as a plastic sleeve.
11. Piezoelectric actuator for controlling a valve unit of a fuel injector as claimed in one of the preceding claims, whereby the piezoelectric actuator (11) has a piezoelectric element (8) which is surrounded by a plastic sleeve (1) and whereby the piezoelectric element (8) is connected by way of contact wires (6) to two contact pins (5) which are arranged at the outer edge of the plastic sleeve (1), characterized in that the plastic sleeve (1) is formed as a one-piece hollow body and that on an upper and a lower end face (10) the plastic sleeve (1) has integrated detent connections (2) by means of which the contact pins (5) can be fixed in their position.